

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs to sponsor 11 special events during July 2019

(DOVER, Del.—June 19, 2019)—During the month of July 2019, the [Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs](#) will be sponsoring 11 special programs at sites across the state. A full schedule is included below. Except where noted, all programs are free and open to the public.



Old State House historical interpreters, dressed in period clothing, will recite the Declaration of Independence near the spot where the document was

first read to the citizens of
Dover in 1776.

**Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs special
events, July 2019**

Tuesday, July 2, 2019

[“Campfire at the John Dickinson Plantation.”](#) Join staff around the campfire and play a game of Jeopardy based on the St. Jones Reserve and John Dickinson. Presented in partnership with the [St. Jones Reserve. John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. 7 p.m. Admission free but reservations required by calling the St. Jones Reserve at 302-739-6377 or by e-mailing margaret.pletta@delaware.gov.

Thursday, July 4, 2019

Independence Day. All museums of the State of Delaware will be open: The [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; [The Old State House](#), open 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; the [John Dickinson Plantation](#), [New Castle Court House Museum](#) and the [Zwaanendael Museum](#), open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Thursday, July 4, 2019

“Stars and Stripes.” In celebration of Independence Day, guided tours explore recordings of patriotic music by John Philip Sousa and other Victor artists accompanied by 78-rpm records played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.



The music of John Philip Sousa will be among the patriotic recordings featured at the Johnson Victrola Museum on July 4 and 6, 2019.

Thursday, July 4, 2019

"Independence Day." Tour Delaware's historic 1791 capitol building. At 2 and 4 p.m., the building's bell will ring in celebration of the nation's birthday, followed immediately by site interpreters, dressed in period clothing, who will recite the Declaration of Independence near the spot where the document was first read to the citizens of Dover in 1776. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Museum open 9 a.m.–6 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, July 6, 2019

"Independence Day." Tour Delaware's historic 1791 capitol building. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, July 6, 2019

"Stars and Stripes." Guided tours explore recordings of

patriotic music by John Philip Sousa and other Victor artists accompanied by 78-rpm records played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.

Thursdays, July 11, 18 and 25, 2019

[“Lost Off Lewes: The British Warship DeBraak.”](#) Special tour explores the history, artifacts and surviving hull section of this 18th-century shipwreck. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. 9 a.m. Limited seating. Admission \$10 (cash or check only). For reservations, e-mail hca_zmevents@state.de.us or call 302-645-1148.



Artistic rendition of the capsizing of the DeBraak by Peggy Kane, 1990

Saturday, July 20, 2019

[“History of the Negro Baseball Leagues.”](#) Living-history interpreter Ron Whittington portrays Hall of Famer William “Judy” Johnson in a program that explores the history of the Negro Baseball Leagues prior to Jackie Robinson’s breaking of the color barrier in the major leagues. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St. New Castle. Program at 1 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but

reservations are requested by calling the museum at 302-323-4453.



Ron Whittington will portray baseball Hall-of-Famer William "Judy" Johnson in the "History of the Negro Baseball Leagues" program on July 20, 2019.

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Delaware State Review Board for Historic Preservation meeting. Agenda TBA. The Delaware Room, [Delaware Public Archives](#), 121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dover. 10 a.m.–Noon. 302-736-7417.

Saturday, July 27, 2019

["Lost Off Lewes: The British Warship DeBraak."](#) Special tour explores the history, artifacts and surviving hull section of this 18th-century shipwreck. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. 5 p.m. Limited seating. Admission \$10 (cash or check only). For reservations, e-mail hca_zmevents@state.de.us or call 302-645-1148.

Exhibits and displays, June 2019

In addition to special programming, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is sponsoring the following exhibits and displays. Admission is free and open to the public:

Ongoing

[“Delaware Railroads: Elegant Travel and Timely Transport.”](#)

Exhibit explores the history of rail travel and transport in the First State emphasizing the New Castle and Frenchtown Railroad (1832), the Delaware Railroad (1852), the Junction and Breakwater Railroad (1857) and the Queen Anne’s Railroad (1896). [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

[“Drawing America to Victory: The Persuasive Power of the Arts in World War I.”](#)

Online exhibit revolves around 27 World War I posters from the collections of the State of Delaware.

Ongoing

[“Five Stories.”](#)

Display explores the varied lives of people who lived on the plantation including Dickinson family members, tenant farmers, tradesmen, free blacks, indentured servants and enslaved individuals. [John Dickinson Plantation](#) Welcome Center, 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.



Panel from the "Five Stories"
display

Ongoing

["Letters From a Farmer in Pennsylvania."](#) Online exhibit explores the life of Founding Father John Dickinson on the 250th anniversary of the publication of his essays that described Colonial American grievances with the British government.

Ongoing

["New Castle: Three Forts, One Community."](#) Exhibit examines the 17th-century struggle for control of New Castle by the Dutch, Swedes and English, and the strongholds that they built to maintain their power. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Ongoing

["The Old State House: A True Restoration 1976-2016."](#) Display explores preservation work that has been conducted since Delaware's first permanent capitol building in Dover was restored to its original appearance in 1976. From the collections of the State of Delaware. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Ongoing

["The Path to Freedom: A History of the Underground Railroad in Delaware."](#) Exhibit explores Delaware's role in the

clandestine network that transported American slaves to freedom including the true journey of the Hawkins family from bondage in Maryland, through Delaware, to freedom in Pennsylvania. Part II of the display explores some of the challenges faced by Black Delawareans after the Civil War, and showcases Delaware trailblazers who helped break racial and gender barriers. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission. 302-323-4453.

Ongoing

[Sculpture by Charles Parks](#). Display of works by the noted Wilmington artist featuring historical and political figures including a Minute Man, and presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and George W. Bush. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Ongoing

[“A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World.”](#) Exhibit utilizes artifacts recovered from His Majesty’s Sloop of War DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798, to tell the story of the vessel, its crew and the historical context within which it operated in the Atlantic World of the late 18th century. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

[“Simple Machines.”](#) Exhibit demonstrating the six “simple machines”—incline ramp, screw, wedge, pulley, lever and wheel—that constitute the elementary building blocks of which many more-complicated machines are composed. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Ongoing

["When Janie Comes Marching Home: Women's Fight to Serve."](#)

Display explores the participation of women in America's armed conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the present, and their fight to be allowed to serve their country during wartime. [Legislative Hall](#), 411 Legislative Ave., Dover. Limited visitation hours; call 302-739-9194 before planning a visit.

Administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the [five museums of the State of Delaware](#)—the John Dickinson Plantation, the Johnson Victrola Museum, the New Castle Court House Museum, The Old State House and the Zwaanendael Museum—tell the story of the First State's contributions to the history and culture of the United States. Through tours, exhibits, school programs and hands-on activities, the museums shine a spotlight on Delaware's unique history and the diverse people who came to live there. The museums are [accredited by the American Alliance of Museums](#). The New Castle Court House Museum and the John Dickinson Plantation are partner sites of the [First State National Historical Park](#). The Old State House is located on the Dover Green, another partner site of the park. Go to the following for a [comprehensive, long-term calendar of division-sponsored events](#).

The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is an agency of the State of Delaware. The division enhances Delaware's quality of life by preserving the state's unique historical heritage, fostering community stability and economic vitality and providing educational programs and assistance to the general public on Delaware history and heritage. The division's diverse array of services includes operation of five museums which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, administration of the State Historic Preservation Office, conservation of the state's archaeological and historic-objects collections, operation of a conference center

and management of historic properties across the state. Primary funding for division programs and services is provided by annual appropriations from the Delaware General Assembly and grants from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, a federal agency. However, the contents and opinions expressed in the division's programs and services do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Department of the Interior.



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